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*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## CAPTURE OF A RARE RAY AT WOODS HOLE, MASS.

*Pteroplatea altavela* Müller and Henle.

On July 3, 1922, a large ray, taken in the trap of Mr. Otis Luce in Buzzards Bay off Penzance Point, Woods Hole, Mass., was brought to the Fisheries Biological Station by Mr. Robert Goffin, Collector for the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. For several days it was kept in one of the exhibition aquaria, where it attracted attention for the possession of large spines on the tail. It had been casually identified as the butterfly ray—*Pteroplatea maclura*., a species for which there is no definite record of the occurrence of spines.

On July 10, when the ray was removed from the aquarium for the purpose of preparing models for a plaster cast, I made a more careful examination of the fish observing the distinct tentacles behind the spiracles, a character that at once distinguished the ray from all other species of the genus except *altavela*. The ray conforms closely to the description of *Pteroplatea altavela*, as given by Garman (Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Volume XXXVI, page 415) but the dermal folds on the tail back of the spines are vestigial, the dorsal fold being scarcely, if at all, discernible.

The distribution of *Pteroplatea altavela*, as given by Garman, is: "Tropical Atlantic; Mediterranean; Brazil."

So far as I am aware, *Pteroplatea altavela* has been recorded on the North American coast on only one previous occasion. In that case the fish, taken by Russell J. Coles near Beaufort, N. C., was not kept, although embryos were preserved and made the subject of record by John T. Nichols (Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Volume 33, Article 32, page 537, New York, 1914) and by Coles (Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Volume 28, pages 89 to 94—1915). The female taken by Coles is recorded as having a width of 6 feet and 10 inches. The specimen that is the subject of this record is a male with width of 124 centimeters or approximately 4 feet and 2 inches. The color of back was dark brown, closely vermiculated with lighter lines. Where the epidermis was rubbed off in making the plaster cast many light spots appear, varying in size from  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter.

It is noteworthy that the embryos of *Pteroplatea altavela* recorded by Nichols, as well as the adult taken at Woods Hole, possessed two spines on the tail. The question arises if the reports of spines on very large examples of *Pteroplatea maclura* (Radcliffe, Bulletin U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Volume XXIV for 1914 [1916], page 276) do not arise from confusion of the two species by fisherman. The confusion would naturally occur if the tentacles escaped observation. There is apparently no authentic record of spines on *Pteroplatea maclura*.

Molds for a plaster cast of the Woods Hole specimen were made by Mr. E. R. Tyrrell of the Milwaukee Public Museum. From this mold it is expected that casts will be made both for the Milwaukee Museum and, by courtesy of the Museum, for the U. S. Fisheries Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.

The specimen has been deposited in the National Museum under the accession number 68624.

The complete measurements of *Pteroplatea altavela*, Woods Hole, Mass., July 10, 1922, are as follows: length, tip of snout to end of tail, 81 cm.; length, tip of snout to posterior margin of disk, 63 cm.; breadth, 124 cm.; anterior margin of disk (direct), 75 cm.; posterior margin of disk (direct), 60 cm.; tip of snout to eye, 13 cm.; longitudinal diameter of eye, 1.3 cm.; transverse diameter of eye, 1.0 cm.; interocular width, 13.3 cm.; width between spiracles, 10.5 cm.; width of mouth, 11 cm.; width between nostrils, 8.7 cm.; tip of snout to mouth, 11 cm.; tip of snout to line between inner angles of first gill slits, 17 cm.; tip of snout to line between inner angles of fifth gill slits, 25 cm.; tip of snout to vent, 57 cm.; length of spines (exposed), 7.5 cm.; length of claspers, 10 cm.; length of ventrals, 13 cm.; length of tentacle, 1.0 cm.—R. E. COKER, *U. S. Bureau of Fisheries*.

## TEKLA, A NEW GENUS OF BLENNIES, AND OTHER NOTES.

The following additional notes are based on a collection recently presented to the American Museum of Natural History by Mr. Louis L. Mowbray.

*Cantherines pullus*. One from Bermuda measures 420 mm. in total length, depth 1.6 in length to base of caudal, spines on peduncle preceded by a brush of stiff hairs. It is a dried specimen, uniform brownish in color, pectoral and vertical fins pale, a saddle shaped mark vaguely indicated extending downward from the back. A second specimen is 290 mm. in total length, depth 1.9 in length to base of caudal, color in alcohol uniform dark, vertical fins and peduncular spines pale. The following color notes were made thereon by the writer when it was alive in the Miami (Fla.) Aquarium, Feb. 4,